



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1967

by the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Divisional Medical Officer,
David Street,
Castle,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

R E P O R T

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1967



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1967

Chairman of the Council : Councillor G.F.J. Stallard J.P.

HEALTH AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor J. E. Garner

COUNCILLORS

Councillor J.D. Blease	Councillor C.V. Davenport
Councillor G.C. Bowen	Councillor F. Dodd
Councillor T. Broad	Councillor W. Faulkner
Councillor T.C. Costello	Councillor W. Healey
Councillor H. Dale	Councillor J.A. Powell

and the above Chairmen

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural District Council, Northwich Urban District Council, Winsford Urban District Council, Runcorn Rural District Council and Runcorn Urban District Council.

and Divisional Medical Officer to the
Mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions

Public Health Inspector

F. Costello .

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Telephone No. :
Northwich 4251

Hartford Hill,
David Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

September, 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the
Middlewich Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

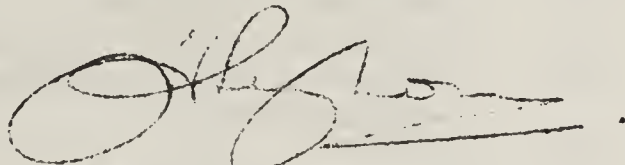
I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1967.

For the information of Members I enclose my Annual Report to the Divisional Health Committee.

I would once again like to express my appreciation to Mr. Costello and the Council's chief Officers for their co-operation and help during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. H. Jones', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated Mid-year 1967)	7,960
Area (acres of District)	1,971
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,672
Rateable Value of area	£278,736
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1967/68	£1,060

Comparative Statistics - 1966/67

	Year	
	1966	1967
Population (Estimated)	7,910	7,960
Rateable Value	£274,741	£278,736
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	£1,036	£1,060
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,650	2,672

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total	England and Wales
<u>Live Births</u>				
Legitimate	70	62	132	
Illegitimate	3	5	8	
	73	67	140	
	—	—	—	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			17.6	
+Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.02)			17.9	17.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births			6.1	
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	2	4	6	
<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	3	—	3	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1	—	1	
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	1	—	1	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births			21.0	18.3

+ see Page 2.

Maternal Deaths (including abortion) Nil						
<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>England and Wales</u>
All causes	60	46	106			
Death Rate per 1,000 population ..			13.3			
+Corrected Death per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.20)			15.9		11.2	

+NOTE: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 56% of the deaths and cancer which caused approximately 12½%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-	2
2. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2	7
3. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
5. Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	8	14
7. Coronary disease, angina	19	8	27
8. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
9. Other Heart Disease	5	6	11
10. Other Circulatory disease	1	1	2
11. Influenza	-	1	1
12. Pneumonia	1	3	4
13. Bronchitis	6	1	7
14. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
15. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
16. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
17. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
18. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8	12
19. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
20. All other accidents	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	60	46	106

SECTION II

HEALTH SERVICES

(1) Information concerning the statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare Services in the area are given in the enclosed report of the Divisional Medical Officer. Further details may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Office, David Street, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 4251.

(2) HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Middlewich Urban District lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Telephone number - Deansgate 7271.

(3) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens and samples taken by the Health Department are submitted for examination to the Chester Public Health Laboratory.

(4) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone number : Northwich 3355.

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

With regard to the expeditious procedure as laid down in the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Medical Officer of Health or any duly qualified person acting for the Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Council to make the requisite application to a Justice of the Peace.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the year 1966 and 1967:

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1966	1967
Measles	105	21
Whooping Cough	-	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	2
Pneumonia	1	-

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is provided by the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board whose offices are at Weaverham Grange, Hartford, near Northwich.

The water supplied to the district was satisfactory in quantity and does not have a plumbo-solvent action. During the year 4 samples were taken by the Water Board and 9 by our own Health Department. All were bacteriologically satisfactory.

There are no dwellinghouses in the district supplied by means of standpipes.

(2) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Following approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the Council's scheme for the provision of new sewage works and the renewal of sewers where necessary, tenders were invited for Phase 1 of the scheme. At the end of the year a contract was placed with the intention that the work would commence in June, 1968. All the necessary lands and wayleaves had been obtained.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are still 6 pail closets in the district and since they are considerable distances from the sewers they cannot be converted to a water carriage system until the new sewerage scheme is carried out.

(4) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences are situated in Leadsmithy Street, and at the rear of Victoria Building.

(5) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse prevailed for the whole of the year. The Council buys and sells dustbins with rubber lids and during the period 138 such bins were sold. This service is of great help in assuring that each house has a proper bin which can be easily brought out and emptied. All bins are collected from the premises for emptying and returned afterwards. Collection of refuse is by two Karrier dual tipper vehicles, the last one to be purchased has also a compression plate.

An adequate quantity of soil was available for cover on the Council's tip at Croxton where free tipping is also provided for builder's debris and garden refuse. In addition the Council collects, free of charge, all surplus and obsolete items of furniture.

Salvage is kept separate and in the year a total of almost 124 tons of paper was baled and sold. Income for the year was £953 2s. 9d. of which 10% was shared amongst the workmen.

(6) STREET CLEANSING

The Surveyor reports that the Johnston Suction Sweeper continues to give good service, the sweeping of all streets being on a rota system.

(7) PETROLEUM STORAGE

Twenty-three licences were issued for the bulk storage of petroleum. All installations were inspected during the year.

H O U S I N G

Provision of New Houses

17 private houses were completed during the year, 10 of the owners came from outside the area. The Council erected 8 x two bedroomed houses in Alexandra Road on the site from which 5 temporary pre-fabs had been demolished. A contract was 'let' for the erection of 15 x two bed-roomed 'Kencast' bungalows on the sites of 15 temporary bungalows which had been demolished. At the end of the year 11 of such bungalows had been completed. 4 of these bungalows were specially adapted for the use of aged persons.

Work commenced in October, 1967 on a Flatlet Scheme of 20 x one person units and 8 x two person units together with a communal section with a Warden in attendance, on a site in Queens Drive. These Flats are for persons over 65 years of age or over 55 years of age with some serious physical disability. The scheme was expected to be completed in September, 1968.

Housing in General

There is no known overcrowding in the district. The average number of persons per dwelling is 2.98 which is similar to last year. The rate of building is likely to be reduced until the new sewage scheme is completed, after which it is anticipated that there will be a considerable growth of the district.

During the year the Council made loans on 27 dwellings under the Housing (Financial Provision) Act, 1958. These loans amounted in total to £40,055. Eight standard and three discretionary grants were made amounting in total to £2,118.

Slum Clearance

During the year numbers 19, 21 and 23 Lower Street were condemned and demolished. The Council re-housed 6 families in Brooks Lane from houses which were sub-standard and these properties were demolished in readiness for the making of a new road. Two further families were re-housed from properties in Wyck-house Lane, on which Demolition Orders had been served and arrangements were in hand for the demolition of the four houses concerned. Three families were re-housed from Booth Lane on which the Council had accepted 'Undertakings' to demolish when the whole block had been vacated. The houses were sub-standard and subject to periodic flooding.

The Council accepted responsibility for the re-housing of some 45 families from houses reaching from Chester Road, through Lawrence Avenue, Webbs Lane, Pepper Street, Lower Street and Kinderton Street to the junction with King Street, where houses are to be demolished in order that an inner by-pass and road widening can take place to make ultimately a shopping precinct free of traffic. The majority of these houses are old and lacking in amenities. On the completion of this scheme there will only be very few houses to be dealt with under the slum clearance. Four families from these properties were re-housed.

House Letting

The Council has a 'Points' scheme for the selection of tenants for Council Houses. During the year 6 families on the waiting list were re-housed. At the end of the year there was a waiting list of 91 local persons of whom 18 were already tenants of Council houses, 16 were lodging in Council houses, 42 were tenants of private houses and 15 were lodging in private houses.

Problem Families

The number of problem families in the district is extremely small and the Council's Officials continued to co-operate with the appropriate authorities.

Housing Notices Complied with:-

Repairs to defective drains	..	..	..	..	5
Repairs to defective closets	..	..	..	..	3
Repairs to roofs	..	..	..	..	2
Provision of dustbins	..	..	..	..	138

The above few complaints received in the whole year denotes the greatly increased standard of housing which prevails in the district since the slum clearance programme and the awarding of improvement grants.

Caravan Sites

There are no caravan sites in the district.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are no Pet Shops Licensed in the district.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

One dealer is registered under the Act.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

All Business Premises, Farms and most dwellings were inspected at least once and treatment given as required. Treatments at Business Premises are charged for, but private dwellings are treated free of cost.

A test baiting of 15% of all sewer manholes was made in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and in no case was there any "take".

Very few complaints of rodent infestation were received during the year.

The Council's rodent operator left for other employment in July and it was not possible to fill the post for several weeks. Unfortunately the person appointed left the Council's employment before he had completed his training. Efforts were being made at the end of the year to get a re-placement. During this period all complaints of infestations were treated by the Public Health Inspector.

Smoke Abatement

The Alkali Inspectorate have, since 1958, been responsible for control over smoke and grit emissions from furnaces used in the production of salt by the "open pan method". More of the open pans were closed during the year and there are now only a few in operation.

During the year the works of Messrs. Murgatroyds in Brooks Lane, which operated the open pan system of salt production closed down and at the end of the year all the buildings were being demolished.

Industry

The British Salt Ltd., a consortium of Cerebos Foods Ltd., and the Staveley Iron and Coal Co. Ltd., commenced development of their new salt making complex and the whole of the new factory is to be in production within 2 years.

Messrs. Pochins Ltd., of King Street acquired the factory site recently occupied by the Imperial Chemical Industries Company and were preparing it for a plant maintenance depot.

A new sanitary block was provided at Messrs. Ready Mix Company factory during the year.

SECTION VI

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4. and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced the Local Authority.	46	12	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	8	5	-	-
Total	54	17	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars ..	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

There are no outworkers registered with the Authority.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Act applies to 69 premises all of which have been registered. 21 visits were made in connection with this Act, but some inspections are still outstanding.

S E C T I O N VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

15 dealers are registered in the district under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

The following tables show the results of tests on samples of milk taken by the County Council.

TABLE I.

Type of Test	Taken by C. C.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.
1. Methylene Blue	53	-
2. Phosphatase	53	-
3. Turbidity	7	-

1. Measures the keeping quality of the milk.
2. Measures the efficiency of the Pasteurisation process.
3. Measures the efficiency of the Sterilising process.

TABLE 2.

	Taken by C. C.	
	Bulk	Ind.
Brucella Negative	5	-
Brucella Positive	-	-
Penicillin <0.05iu	5	-
Penicillin >0.05iu	-	-

Only a small quantity of raw milk is sold in the district and this is subject to regular sampling in the Northwich Rural District Council area.

Leaflets containing advice on Food Hygiene were distributed to all houses and shops.

(b) ICE-CREAM

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the only ice-cream sold is pre-wrapped. 5 samples were taken in the district and were submitted to the Chester Public Health Laboratory. These were satisfactory and placed in the Provisional Grade as follows:

Provisional Grade 1 .. 5

(c) MEAT

The only slaughterhouse in the district is at Newton Hall. These premises are well maintained in accordance with the Construction and Hygiene Regulations. Veterinary Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture made a number of visits and were satisfied with conditions there. Under the Meat Regulations all meat passed for human consumption must carry the Council's stamp.

109 visits of inspection were made in the year and Inspectors of the Winsford Urban District Council deputised for 2 weeks during the holidays of the Middlewich Public Health Inspector. This co-operation and help is greatly appreciated.

Inspection charges for the year amounted to £81 - 8s. - 6d.

No horses are slaughtered in the district.

Tables of Carcasses and Offal

Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	57	120	1,002	128	494
Number inspected	57	120	1,002	128	494
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	6	3	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	41	6	11	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerchi	8.8%	35%	1.2%	10.9%	3.2%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerchi	-	-	-	-	-

It is pleasing to note that once again there was no evidence of Tuberculosis in any of the animals slaughtered - a tribute to the Ministry's efforts to eradicate this disease.

(d) Poultry Inspection:-

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district.	1
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises.	112
(iii)	Total number of birds processed during the year.	142,285
(iv)	Types of birds processed.	Broilers
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	1.97%
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	3tons-5cwt.
(vii)	Number of killing days per week.	3
(viii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection.	

During the year no adverse reports were received regarding poultry issued from these premises.

The Department was satisfied with the processing, scrutinisation and grading procedures adopted by the Company. It was possible during the year to increase the number of visits paid by your Inspector but it is obviously desirable that a visit should be paid at least on each killing day in view of the importance of this trade.

Work has been carried out during the year in improving the premises and almost the whole of the works requested had been carried out at the end of the year.

Unsound Food

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of 17lbs. of liver and 2 tins of ham.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Condemned meat at the Slaughterhouse is stained green and then sold for animal feeding stuffs via an approved agent. Condemned foods at shops are collected and buried at the refuse tip.

Food Premises

The undermentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich District.

Schedule of premises subject to Regs. 16 & 19
of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Complying with Reg. 16</u>	<u>Reg. 19 Applies</u>	<u>Complying with Reg. 19</u>
Butchers Shops	7	7	7	7
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Schools	4	4	4	4
Fish and Chip Shops	5	5	5	5
Grocery Shops	23	23	23	23
Fresh Fish Shops	2	2	2	2
Chocolate and Sweets	6	6	-	-
Public Houses	15	15	-	-
Clubs and Licenced Bars	3	3	-	-
Greengrocers	4	4	-	-
Chemist Shops	2	2	-	-
Slaughterhouses	1	(Complies with Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations).		

These descriptions only indicate the main type of food sold in each shop.

Registered Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream	..	24
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	..	15
Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies		
Regulations, 1959-60	.. .. .	1
Registered Milk Dealers	.. .. .	15

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are well maintained.

MEAT SAMPLES

3 samples of various meat products were taken and sent for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS

The County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors took samples of 39 varied articles of food in the Middlewich Urban District during 1967. The following 1 sample was not up to standard.

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Patna Rice	Contaminated with moth, eggs and webbing - Food Packers cautioned.

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. COSTELLO.

Public Health Inspector.

